



## Supporting our Youth Heart Work, Hard Work

### Wanted

- Self-sufficient, mature adults over the age of twenty one
- Married or Single
- Committed to helping Teens
- Flexibility of expectations
- Tolerance for ambivalent/negative feelings
- Tolerance for rejection
- Willing to work with agency for the benefit of the child
- Able to deal with challenges
- A sense of humor

Teens need supportive, caring adults to guide them into adulthood. Unfortunately, we are in short supply of foster families willing and committed to fostering our teenage population. This means that teens entering the foster care system may have to move to a different area, losing access to their family, friends, school, mentors, and teams.

Help us keep our teenagers from our neighborhoods here in our community!

We can all grow from the opportunity and the experience.

***"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. It is the only thing that ever has"***

*Author, Margaret Mead*



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## Clarke, Frederick, and Winchester City Department of Social Services

### S.A.F.E. Foster Care Program



### Supporting Adolescents in Family Environments

***(540)955-3700***

## WHAT IS A "S.A.F.E. FOSTER FAMILY"?

It is a unit of one or more adults who have been specially trained to work with the support of a professional team of social workers, counselors, and educators to provide daily care, supervision, and parenting in a family setting to challenging youth. They are:

- positive role models
- committed to accepting youth between 12 and 18 years of age with troubled past
- willing to support youth's relationship with birth parents
- available to actively participate in therapeutic services needed by the youth.
- able to transport child to: counseling, mental health appointments, court hearings, school, work and other meetings
- able to pass drug screening, DMV, CPS and Criminal History checks

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Behaviors demonstrated by our teenagers may include one or more of the following:

- Acting out sexually
- Alcohol abuse
- Delinquent behaviors
- Drug abuse
- Eating Disorders
- Mental Health Issues/Diagnosis
- Runaway Tendencies
- School Truancy
- Special needs

The children you bring into your home may not be appreciative of your efforts to help them. They may challenge you and your patience. But with consistency, care and guidance you can help transform a troubled youth into a young adult who has purpose and self respect who will one day be a contributing member of society.

***"You don't have to make a lifetime commitment to make a difference for a lifetime"***

## BENEFITS

- Payment for board, clothing and transportation expenses
- Medical & dental coverage for the foster child
- Financial stipend (up to \$2,000.00) per month
- Ongoing training opportunities
- Support from agency social worker, child welfare worker, and other foster parents.
- 24 hour access to "on call staff" in an emergency.
- Support services
- Reward of helping a teenager in need of adult support
- Satisfaction of seeing a teenager grow physically and emotionally

For information on how to become a "S.A.F.E." Foster Family call us at **(540) 955-3700**